

based hate crimes. With accurate data, local communities can identify gender-based hate crimes in their area and chart their progress toward eliminating them. Moreover, the inclusion of gender will send a strong message that gender-based hate crimes will not be tolerated. It is my understanding that Chairman SENSENBRENNER will accept this amendment, and I thank him as well.

We must be diligent in our efforts to protect children from those individuals who would steal their innocence, or worse, take their lives. I am hopeful that this legislation will enhance the efforts already in place so that parents and communities can take the necessary steps to ensure that their children will be safe.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
ROBERT L. LEWIS, FOUNDER OF
CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Robert L. Lewis, beloved husband, father, friend and United States Veteran. Mr. Lewis leaves behind a brilliant legacy that reflects his personal passions and professional accomplishments as admired attorney, educator, author and long-time activist on behalf of the performing arts and educational opportunity for all.

Mr. Lewis was born and raised in New York. As a young boy, he performed song, dance and comedy routines with his family on the vaudeville circuit. His formal education in public school did not begin until age 12. Extremely bright, Mr. Lewis quickly ascended through the grade levels. He graduated from high school at age 15 and enrolled in college at age 16. Following his service in the army in Europe during World War II, Mr. Lewis studied law at Western Reserve University in Cleveland and graduated in 1948 with a law degree.

Mr. Lewis joined the law firm of Ulmer, Berne, Laronge, Glickman and Curtis and retired in 1996 after 46 years of outstanding work with the firm. He worked as a professor at Case Western Reserve University's Mandel Center for Nonprofit Organizations, and also taught corporate and contract law courses at what was then Cleveland Marshall Law School.

Throughout his adult life, Mr. Lewis maintained an unwavering focus on raising the lives of others into the light of possibility and achievement. He volunteered his time as past president of the Association of Governing Boards of Colleges and Universities; board member with PACE (Program for Action by Citizens in Education), and served on the board of the Fairmount Center for the Creative and Performing Arts.

His passion and belief that higher education should be affordable for everyone manifested itself in 1963 with the establishment of Cuyahoga Community College (CCC), an institution that continues to be a significant source of educational and career opportunities for thousands of students each year. Mr. Lewis served on the CCC Board of Trustees for 18 years and Chairman of the Board for 4 years. He also served as CCC's "resident scholar," and

taught courses in Greek mythology and drama.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor, remembrance and gratitude to Mr. Robert L. Lewis, whose life was defined by his steadfast commitment to his family, his significant contribution to our community and his boundless energy in promoting the performing arts and securing educational opportunities for everyone. I offer my condolences to his wife of 42 years, Joanne; his daughters, Pavia and Clea; his sons, Paul, David and Brian; his nine grandchildren and his extended family members and many friends.

The kindness, vision, energy and personal and professional excellence that flowed from the gracious life of Mr. Lewis will continue to serve as a fountain of learning and strength for the students and educators at Cuyahoga Community College, and his legacy will continue to raise our entire community into the light of hope, possibility and opportunity for all.

RETIREMENT OF VICTOR A.
MODEER

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Vic Modeer upon his retirement from the Illinois Department of Transportation, IDOT. For the past 20 years, Vic Modeer has served with utmost distinction at the IDOT.

After graduating from the Louisiana State University and receiving a masters in civil engineering from Purdue University, Vic worked in the private sector for a contractor and consultants prior to his employment at IDOT. Once at IDOT, he worked his way up from various positions within the Division of Highways to eventually become the director of Highways and chief engineer. IDOT's Division of Highways is a vast organization with over 5,000 employees, a \$490 million operating budget, and a \$4.5 billion construction budget.

While serving as the district engineer and as director of Highways, Vic was instrumental in overseeing many important highway projects in my congressional district and across the entire State of Illinois. As director of Highways, he helped lead IDOT to be the first State department of transportation in the Nation to meet and become certified under the process and quality management standards of the International Organization of Standardization, ISO 9001:2000. This is indicative of the dedication Vic and his staff have shown for professionalism, product quality, public accountability, and customer satisfaction.

Vic met the challenges of budget constraints and significant staff reductions during his tenure as director with a typical can-do attitude. He reorganized the division, improved communications, engineered process efficiencies to make up for lost work force, and employed innovative management and training methods to maintain productivity and continue delivering the highway program as promised, with no reduction in service, despite the loss of nearly 20 percent of his staff to early retirement and other attrition between 2002 and 2005.

Mr. Modeer's participation in numerous professional organizations, including the AASHTO

Standing Committee on Highways and the Task Force with Transportation Security, his service as a Navy veteran from Desert Storm serving in Saudi Arabia with the Seabees as an officer in the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps, his long list of publicized articles regarding geotechnical engineering as well as teaching numerous engineering classes at Louisiana State University and Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville exemplify the strength of his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in offering congratulations and gratitude for his long and successful career at the IDOT. Vic Modeer's meritorious service to Illinois and to our country will have a lasting legacy not only in steel and concrete, but his true legacy will be with the people who served with him and the lives he has helped and touched. I wish him well and hope he continues to achieve happiness, health and success in his future endeavors.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF JOHN H.
JOHNSON

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of John H. Johnson. Born in 1918 in Arkansas City, AR, Mr. Johnson passed away on August 8 at the age of 87. Mr. Johnson has set an example for us all by being both an entrepreneur and a philanthropist. I would like to recognize Mr. Johnson's lifetime of contributions to Arkansas and our Nation.

Mr. Johnson began his distinguished career in 1942 as editor and publisher of Negro Digest. Just 3 years later, he began publishing Ebony Magazine, one of the most influential African-American magazines in the world, with a \$500 loan. Mr. Johnson later became the founder, publisher, and chairman of Johnson Publishing Company, the world's largest African-American owned publishing company.

In 1982, Mr. Johnson was the first African-American to be named on the Forbes list of the 400 wealthiest Americans. Mr. Johnson's long list of awards and achievements include: the Black Journalists' Lifetime Achievement Award in 1987, the Wall Street Journal/Dow Jones Entrepreneurial Excellence Award in 1993, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996—the highest honor this Nation gives to a citizen, the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame Award in 2001, the Vanguard Award in 2002, and the Trumpet Award in 2002.

Arkansas City and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff have worked together to create the John H. Johnson Cultural and Education Museum. On May 21 of this year, this museum was dedicated in Desha County, AR. The museum captures Mr. Johnson's life by restoring his boyhood home and includes period memorabilia, printed material, and video chronicles. I know it was a tremendous honor for Mr. Johnson to return to his home and see the great tribute dedicated in his honor.

I am deeply saddened by Mr. Johnson's death. His dedication, entrepreneurial spirit, and legacy will continue in Arkansas for the years and decades ahead. My heartfelt condolences go to his wife, Eunice, and their daughter, Linda Johnson Rice, and their granddaughter, Alexa Rice.

IN HONOR OF STANLEY M. FISHER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Stanley M. Fisher, devoted family man, accomplished attorney, friend and mentor to many, and first-ever recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, bestowed upon him by the Northern District of Ohio Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. This premier mark of excellence reflects Mr. Fisher's multifaceted service in the legal profession, service framed by achievement, integrity and heart.

After graduating from Oberlin College and the University of Michigan Law School, Mr. Fisher worked as a clerk for the 6th Circuit with Chief Judge Charles Simon and later for Justice Potter Stewart, before Justice Stewart was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Equipped with unwavering commitment, steadfast integrity and expertise, Mr. Fisher's work serves as a source of knowledge, strength and advocacy throughout all levels of the justice system. His significant service within the Federal Bar Association, FBA, extends from his role as past President of the Northern District of Ohio, lifetime member of the FBA Board of Directors, and most notably, the first Ohioan to serve as National President of the FBA.

In 1983, Mr. Fisher was appointed as an Ohio Commissioner with the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws by then Governor, Richard Celeste. He was reappointed by Ohio Governors Voinovich and Taft. Mr. Fisher's talent and conviction have impacted cases from Ohio to our Nation's Capitol. President Clinton appointed Mr. Fisher to the Federal Service Impasse Panel in 1992. For 10 years, he handled mediation and arbitration cases, directing each grievance from preparation to resolution. Mr. Fisher continues his work as a local and national mediator and is currently serving his second term as a member of the American Arbitration Association Advisory Council.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Stanley M. Fisher, for his outstanding and continued excellence as attorney, guide and leader within the legal profession. His unwavering focus on the balanced scales of justice serves to protect legal equity throughout our American system of justice, from Cleveland, to Washington, DC and beyond.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF
REPRESENTATIVE NAP MURPHY**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great Arkansan and a devoted public servant, State Representative "Nap" Napoleon Bonaparte Murphy. Representative Murphy passed away on August 23rd at the age of 83. He worked for nearly 50 years as the owner of a successful car dealership in Hamburg, Arkansas, but is better re-

membered for his colorful personality and career dedicated to helping the people in his community from the Arkansas State Legislature.

Representative Murphy was born on September 26, 1921, in Crossett, Arkansas. After moving to Hamburg in 1948, he bought the Main Street Esso Station and just 4 years later, he purchased the local Ford Dealership. Representative Murphy was elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives in 1959, serving just one term before returning to Hamburg to run his business, and was re-elected in 1963 where he served until his retirement in 1995. Representative Murphy served as the distinguished Chairman of the House Agriculture and Economic Development Committee.

I had the pleasure of knowing Representative Murphy when I served in the Arkansas State Senate. He was a dynamic character who would begin and end every legislative session wearing his white suit and black bowtie. He had a great love for bluegrass music and enjoyed playing the banjo, mandolin, guitar, and fiddle.

Arkansas will certainly miss this great politician from humble beginnings and I will miss his sense of humor and dedication to our state. My condolences go out to Nap's son, Jimmy, his daughter, Ila Murphy Campbell, his eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

FREEDOM FOR OSCAR MARIO
GONZÁLEZ**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Oscar Mario González, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. González is an independent journalist and pro-democracy activist in totalitarian Cuba. His peaceful, pro-democracy activities and truthful articles have helped the world to learn the facts about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. Unfortunately, the dictatorship forcefully represses those who bravely support freedom and rise in resistance to the despotic regime.

According to Reporters Without Borders, on March 24, 2005, Mr. González was summoned and questioned by regime agents, who threatened that he would not be able to see his family again if he continued practicing as an independent journalist. Despite these gangster tactics and heinous threats, Mr. González continued to demand basic human rights for the people of Cuba.

As part of the tyrant's heinous July 2005 crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy opponents, on July 22, Mr. González was arrested as he tried to participate in a peaceful demonstration outside the French Embassy in Havana, demanding the release of political prisoners in Cuba. As part of this vicious crackdown, approximately 33 brave opponents were arrested at home, on their way to the demonstration or on the sidelines of the gathering.

According to CubaNet, Mr. González has been charged with violating Law 88. This is the same sham law that the tyrannical regime

used to wrongly convict many of the pro-democracy activists arrested in March 2003.

Mr. González is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. Despite incessant repression, harassment, incarceration and abuse, he remains committed to the conviction that freedom of the press and democracy are the inalienable right of the Cuban people. It is a crime against humanity that Castro's totalitarian gulags are full of men and women, like Mr. González, who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, let me be very clear, Mr. González is languishing in the grotesque squalor of the gulag because he desires freedom for all Cubans. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Oscar Mario González and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

WELCOMING TAIWAN'S PRESIDENT
CHEN**HON. SHERROD BROWN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the president of Taiwan, Chen Shui-bian, will be making a stop in Miami en route to Central America later this month. He will stop overnight in San Francisco on his return to Taiwan.

I am sorry that he won't be stopping in Washington, DC. Many of my colleagues and I hope that in the future he and other Taiwanese leaders will be able to visit our capital.

President Chen has been in office for more than 5 years. During his tenure as president, he has been able to unite Taiwan, stabilize cross-strait relations, seek social harmony and reinvigorate the economy.

To maintain cross-strait peace and stability, he reacted calmly to China's enactment of its provocative antiseccession law last March.

Under his presidency, Taiwan's global competitiveness increased and the nation now ranks as one of the world's top economies.

On the international front, President Chen made several state visits to diplomatic allies. In April he went to the Vatican City to pay final respects to the late Pope John Paul II. During his brief stopovers in Miami and San Francisco this September, I hope my colleagues will take the time to visit with President Chen. President Chen is the leader of a young but prosperous democracy, and our mutual love of freedom can only be strengthened by these visits.

Taiwan is one of America's most important allies. Taiwan is also our trading partner and friend. Whenever America has need, Taiwan is there. They have contributed to the Twin Towers Fund, the Pentagon Memorial Fund and most recently, Taiwan gave two million dollars to help victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. Speaker, we must also remember Taiwan's unique role in maintaining peace and stability in the Asian Pacific region. To have permanent peace in the region, the United States should urge Taiwan and China to resume peaceful dialogue and exchanges.

We should also encourage Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization and the United Nations. Taiwan is a vibrant democracy, and I hope the entire world will recognize its people's love of freedom.